GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:366
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
NEW TELECOM RULES
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cellular Operators Association of India has expressed its unhappiness over the new telecom rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the views of the association; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (c) On 29th August 2007, the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) were received on "Review of license terms and conditions and capping of number of access providers". TRAI has made recommendations, inter-alia, on number of Access Services telecom operators, spectrum allocation criterion, mergers and acquisitions etc. TRAI has made the said recommendation after following a consultation process with the stakeholders including Global System of Mobile (GSM) operators.

Government has already taken a decision on TRAI's recommendation on 17-10-2007, inter-alia, accepting that there should be no cap on the number of access provider in any service area and usages of dual technology (Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) and Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) by existing Unified Access Services (UAS) licensees.

Cellular Operators Association of India and Others have challenged the Government decision on these recommendations in Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) and the matter is sub-judice.